

## **IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A system for capturing an image of a retina of an eye for identification comprising:

a source of illumination light;

a lens through which the illumination light passes to illuminate the retina, the lens receiving light reflected from the retina;

an image signal generator responsive to light reflected from the retina to generate a signal representing an image of an illuminated area of the retina; and

an alignment system to align the eye along an axis that is at a predetermined angle with respect to a centerline of the lens, ~~the angle being selected such that when the eye is aligned along said axis, said centerline intersects an area of the retina other than the fovea~~ the alignment system including an elongated straight channel having an end into which a user looks, the longitudinal axis of the channel being the axis along which the eye is aligned and an object being disposed in the channel at a distance from the end into which the user looks wherein the aspect ratio of the diameter of the channel to the length of the channel from the location of the object to the end into which the user looks is such that the object is viewable when the eye is aligned along the longitudinal axis and is not viewable when the eye is not aligned along the longitudinal axis, and the system including an ultrasound transducer, and the system being responsive to the transducer to determine when the eye is at a predetermined distance from the image capturing system and providing an indication to the user when the eye is at the predetermined distance.

2. (Cancel) A system for capturing an image of a retina of an eye for identification as recited in claim 1 wherein the alignment system includes an elongated straight channel having an end into which a user looks, the longitudinal axis of the channel being the axis along which the eye is aligned and an object being disposed in the channel at a distance from the end into which the user looks wherein the object is viewable when the eye is aligned along the longitudinal axis.

3. (Currently Amended) A system for capturing an image of a retina of an eye for identification as recited in claim ~~2~~ 1 wherein said object is a light.

4. (Currently Amended) A system for capturing an image of a retina of an eye for identification as recited in claim ~~2~~ 1 wherein the object is a light, the light is flashing when the eye is not at the predetermined distance, the flashing rate of the light changing as the distance of the eye approaches the predetermined distance and the flashing stopping when the eye is at the predetermined distance.

5. (Currently Amended) A system for capturing an image of a retina of an eye for identification as recited in claim ~~2~~ 1 wherein the object is a light and the aspect ratio of the diameter of the channel at the location of the light to the length of the channel from the end into which the user looks to the location of the light is in a range of 0.02 to 0.084.

6. (Currently Amended) A system for capturing an image of a retina of an eye for identification as recited in claim ~~2~~ 1 wherein the object is a light and the aspect ratio of the diameter of the channel at the location of the light to the length of the channel from the end into which the user looks to the light is approximately 0.04.

7. (Currently Amended) A system for capturing an image of a retina of an eye for identification as recited in claim ~~2~~ 1 wherein the angle is such as to illuminate the optic disk to generate a signal representing an image thereof.

8. (Original) A system for capturing an image of a retina of an eye for identification as recited in claim 1 wherein said indication is visual.

9. (Original) A system for capturing an image of a retina of an eye for identification as recited in claim 1 wherein the said indication is audible.

10. (Original) A system for capturing an image of a retina of an eye for identification as recited in claim 1 wherein the illumination source is a non-scanned light source.

11. (Original) A system for capturing an image of a retina of an eye for identification as recited in claim 1 wherein the illumination source includes a green light and a red light.

12. (Original) A system for capturing an image of a retina of an eye for identification as recited in claim 11 wherein the lights are light emitting diodes.

13. (Original) A system for capturing an image of a retina of an eye for identification as recited in claim 1 wherein said lens has at least one rotationally symmetric aspheric surface.

14. (Original) A system for capturing an image of a retina of an eye for identification as recited in claim 1 wherein said image signal generator is a CCD camera.

15. (Original) A system for capturing an image of a retina of an eye for identification as recited in claim 1 including a pinhole lens disposed between the image signal generator and the lens.

16. (Currently Amended) A system for capturing an image of a retina of an eye for identification comprising:

a source of illumination light;

a lens through which the illumination light passes to illuminate the retina, the lens receiving light reflected from the retina;

an image signal generator responsive to light reflected from the retina to generate a signal representing an image of an illuminated area of the retina; and

an alignment system including a member with an elongated straight channel therein, the channel having an end into which a user looks and a longitudinal axis at an angle with respect to a centerline of the lens, the angle being selected such that when the eye is aligned along said axis, said centerline intersects an area of the retina other than the fovea and an object disposed in the channel at a distance from the end into which the user looks wherein the aspect ratio of the diameter of the channel to the length of the channel from the location of the object to the end into which the user looks is such that the object is viewable when the eye is aligned along the longitudinal axis and is not viewable when the eye is not aligned along the longitudinal axis.

17. (Original) A system for capturing an image of a retina of an eye for identification as recited in claim 16 wherein said object is a light.

18. (Previously Amended) A system for capturing an image of a retina of an eye for identification as recited in claim 17 including an ultrasound transducer for determining when the eye is at a predetermined distance from the image capturing system and wherein the light is flashing when the eye is not at the predetermined distance, the flashing rate of the light changing as the distance of the eye approaches the predetermined distance and the flashing stopping when the eye is at the predetermined distance.

19. (Original) A system for capturing an image of a retina of an eye for identification as recited in claim 16 wherein the object is a light and the aspect ratio of the diameter of the channel at the location of the light to the length of the channel from the end into which the user looks to the location of the light is in a range of 0.02 to 0.084.

20. (Original) A system for capturing an image of a retina of an eye for identification as recited in claim 16 wherein the object is a light and the aspect ratio of the diameter of the channel at the location of the light to the length of the channel from the end into which the user looks to the light is approximately 0.04.

21. (Original) A system for capturing an image of a retina of an eye for identification as recited in claim 16 wherein the channel is a tubular channel with a black channel wall.

22. (Original) A system for capturing an image of a retina of an eye for identification as recited in claim 16 wherein the alignment system determines when the eye is a predetermined distance from the image capturing system.

23. (Original) A system for capturing an image of a retina of an eye for identification as recited in claim 22 including an ultrasound transducer.

24. (Original) A system for capturing an image of a retina of an eye for identification as recited in claim 22 wherein the object is a light that is viewable when the eye is aligned along the longitudinal axis and the light has at least a first state and a second state, the light changing state when the eye is a predetermined distance from the image capturing system.

25. (Original) A system for capturing an image of a retina of an eye for identification as recited in claim 16 wherein the illumination source is a non-scanned light source.

26. (Original) A system for capturing an image of a retina of an eye for identification as recited in claim 16 wherein the illumination source includes a green light and a red light.

27. (Original) A system for capturing an image of a retina of an eye for identification as recited in claim 26 wherein the lights are light emitting diodes.

28. (Original) A system for capturing an image of a retina of an eye for identification as recited in claim 16 wherein said lens has at least one rotationally symmetric aspheric surface.

29. (Original) A system for capturing an image of a retina of an eye for identification as recited in claim 16 wherein said image signal generator is a CCD camera.

30. (Original) A system for capturing an image of a retina of an eye for identification comprising:

- a source of illumination light;

- a lens through which the illumination light passes to illuminate the retina, the lens receiving light reflected from the retina;

- an image signal generator responsive to light reflected from the retina to generate a signal representing an image of an illuminated area of the retina; and

- an alignment system including:

- an elongated channel having an end into which a user looks and a longitudinal axis at an angle with respect to a centerline of the lens;

a light disposed in the channel at a distance from the end into which a user looks so that the user's eye is aligned along the longitudinal axis when the light is visible, the light having at least a first state and a second state; and

a distance detector to determine when the eye is a predetermined distance from the image capturing system, the light changing state when the eye is at the predetermined distance.

31. (Original) A system for capturing an image of a retina of an eye for identification as recited in claim 30 wherein the light is flashing in one state and the light is continuously on in another state.

32. (Original) A system for capturing an image of a retina of an eye for identification as recited in claim 30 wherein the light is in a flashing state when the eye is not at the predetermined distance and the light is continuously on when the eye is at the predetermined distance.

33. (Original) A system for capturing an image of a retina of an eye for identification as recited in claim 32 wherein the flashing rate changes as the eye approaches the predetermined distance.

34. (Original) A system for capturing an image of a retina of an eye for identification as recited in claim 30 wherein the channel is a tubular channel with a black channel wall.

35. (Original) A system for capturing an image of a retina of an eye for identification as recited in claim 30 wherein the distance detector includes an ultrasound transducer.

36. (Original) A system for capturing an image of a retina of an eye for identification as recited in claim 30 wherein the ultrasound transducer is adjacent the channel.

37. (Original) A system for capturing an image of a retina of an eye for identification as recited in claim 30 wherein the object is a light and the aspect ratio of the diameter of the

channel at the location of the light to the length of the channel from the end into which the user looks to the location of the light is in a range of 0.02 to 0.084.

38. (Original) A system for capturing an image of a retina of an eye for identification as recited in claim 30 wherein the object is a light and the aspect ratio of the diameter of the channel at the location of the light to the length of the channel from the end into which the user looks to the light is approximately 0.04.

39. (Original) A system for capturing an image of a retina of an eye for identification as recited in claim 30 wherein the angle is such as to illuminate the optic disk to generate a signal representing an image thereof.

40. - 55. (Cancelled)